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Southerland One of Few Living Adventures of Four Strange Ships.

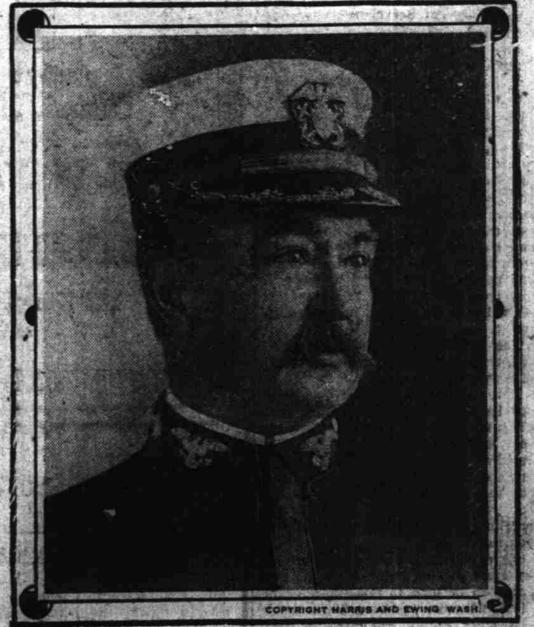
Those were exciting days on the blackade, and Southerland's little craft.

Rear Admiral William Henry Hudof the Pacific fleet, the officer who has refused to answer her private signals American marines and bluejackets stern lamps. For a time the Eagle against the Nicaraguan insurgents, is steamed in company with them, apone of the two rear admirals on the proaching so close that her commandactive list of the navy who can beast er could plainly make out the vessel's of Civil War service. Furthermore, hulls in the darkness, but he was finhe is one of the few, men who have ally obliged to sheer off on a threat ever attained flag rank in the navy, of chase by one of the four strangers. after beginning at the bottom of the ladder as a common sailor.

Admiral Southerland has had a varled naval career. He was born in New York, July 10, 1852. He must have been an adventurous youngster, for he had served a brief term in the volunteer navy during the Civil War by the time he was fourteen, and was already a veteran when he received venture was on July 12, when she was his appointment to the Naval Acad- on the blockade between the south-

had her share of adventure. On the night of June 7, off the Cuban coast. she sighted a mysterious squadron of son Southerland, commander-in-chief four ships, moving in line ahead, which been directing the operations of the and steamed without lights, gave

There was plenty for the Eagle to do, Blockading bombarding Spanish coast forts, lending Cuban spies and troops, guarding transports and supply ships, carrying messages, the Eagle performed all the thousand and one tasks that fell to the lot of such nondescript craft. Her last great ademy on June 29, 1868, before he was ern coast of the isle of Pines and Cape sixteen. At an age when most fu- Francis. She sighted in the distance ture cadets at Annapolis were still a large steamer giving chase to three busied with their school books and small prizes of the Dixle, which were



ADMIRAL W. H. H. SOUTHERLAND.

ble apprentice in the rough-and-ready crowd of a man-o'-war's berth deck. years of drill and routine, performed put out after it. his two years of sea service, and finof worn-out wooden steam frigates and steamer came off from the shore and sentiment swinging pelimell to the opened fire on her as a precautionary

matic guns, a crew, and a scant allowance of watch officers, and dispatched to face whatever might be sent against it. The Eagle had great good luck, though, in fighting the first na-

val engagement afloat of the war. She had left the New York Navy Yard on April 17 and arrived at Key West on the 23rd. On the afternoon of the 24th she steamed from Key West under orders to proceed to the blockading fleet off Havana, and was assigned to duty with the cruisers Marblehead and Nashville, which had been ordered to intercept the Spanish armed transports Montserrat and Aliand Nashville were obliged by their greater draught to remain some disward the harbor to investgate.

Now, it happened that the Spanish torpedo gunboat Galicia and two small gunboats of the Eagle's own class good effect that within fifteen min- known for his "clean-shirt revolution." utes the Galicia had a shot through An Embarrassed Officer.

erland steamed in closer to shore, of her marines to the cruiser Colum- ever gets. But it was impossible to and aiming as well as he could—for bia, than on her way to Colon to bring take the Dixie from Cienfuegos, where the enemy, as usual, used smokeless home Elihu Root, then Secretary of her marines were absolutely needed. powder engaged all of his opponents State, from his South American trip. | Some other ship would have to go. But until the Marblehead, which had been Expecting his ship to be away only no other ship than the Dixie could worried by the prolonged canonade, about twenty-four hours, Southerland earry to Santo Domingo Capt. Southsteamed within range and took over went aboard the gunboat Scorpion, erland's supply of nice clean shirts was injured so seriously that she was his personal effects from his cabin on weeks past. In this difficult continof no further use to the Spainards. the Dixie. She carried a much heavier battery But the Dixle had no cooner reach- a friend in Washington the exact state than the Eagle, having in addition ed Guantanamo than there came a de- of affairs, and amid roars of suppressto four six-pounders, the equivalent of mand for American marines in Havana | ed laughter that finally gurgled their the Eagle's battery, two 4.72-inch guns to protect American life and property | way into every ward-room in the serv-

had scarcely begun to think about then on their way to Key West. The getting their appointments, as a hum- pursuing steamer was much larger than the Eagle, but with his usual impetuosity-an impetuosity that seems He got his appointment to the Acad- to have marked most American naval emy, went through the regular four commanders in this war-Southerland

The stranger promptly hauled ally was commissioned. That was around and stood off to the northwest way back in the seventies, of course, and an hour later ran on the shoals when the navy consisted of a handful of Piedras Point. A sidewheel river corvettes left over from the auction attempted to assist the stranded craft. sales that followed the Civil War. but left after taking off her crew, Chances to distinguish one's self were when she saw that the Eagle meant few and far between. And, like many business and was coming in close other officers, Southerland still a lieu- enough to use her guns. Southerland tenant at forty-six, was compelled to noticed that the stranded vessel wait patiently until the military gla- mounted two big guns forward, bigger mor of the Spanish War sent public guns than any he carried, and he

Annapolis, he found himself command. Santo Domingo, mounting two 4.72-er of the tiny gunboat Eagle, one of inch guns, and crammed to her guard-ler of the tiny gunboat Eagle, one of inch guns, and crammed to her guardthe hastily scraped-together mosquito rails with munitions of war, clothing fleet, a converted yacht, which was and provisions for the Spanish army. painted war-color, given a battery of In her hold were two 12-inch guns, four six-pounders and two Colt auto- evidently for use by the Spaniards evidently for use by the Spaniards

in Cuba. The contents of the vessel, after a hasty inventory, was valued at \$1,000,-000, making her one of the most valuable prizes of the war; but as there was no way of hauling her off the coral reef upon which she had grounded, and as Sutherland was afraid some armed force he could not resist might appear and attempt to salve her, he was regretfully obliged to set fire to her. She burned for a week afterwards, and the wreck of her varied cargo carried over the sea for miles.

After the Spanish war the navy was cante. Off Cienfuegos the Marblehead expanded and promotion was acceler- fuegos, to protect American sugar two islets, to which the United States ated. Southerland had commanded the Engle as a lieutenant, after thirty tance out, while the Eagle went in to- years' serivce as an officer. Within a very few years he was a full captain. And in this connection, a very amusing story is told of an incident which occurred in 1906, while he commanded were in the harbor of Cienfueges, and the Dixie—the ship whose prizes he seeing an enemy approaching, these rescued back in 1898. This is one of vessels steamed boldly toward him, the stories that are told throughout The Eagle promptly opened up with the navy, and, no matter what britiant her six-pounders at a range varying work Admiral Southerland may have from 4,000 to 2,200 yards, and work- done in Nicaragua or elsewhere, he ed her pop-gun battery with such will never be known for it as he is

her bollers. It was too hot for the The story goes that the Dixie had said the dispatches, rebels were or-Spaniard, and he turned and ran. been ordered to Santo Domingo to pre- ganizing, and the outlook was dark. The Eagle went about her designat- vent exiled rebel leaders from landing "Imperatively necessary," urged a ed work or reconnassance. Presently on the island with filibustering expedidispatch, and marines and one more one of the small gunboats reappear- tions. One day an order came from ship. Southerland. ed, and a shore battery opened up on Washington sending the Dixie to! The Department was perturbed, as her. Nothing daunted by this, South Guantanamo, to tranship a company perturbed as the Navy Department

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other extreme.

In the bustling days of 1898, just her. This prize crew discovered her thirty years after his admission to be the Spanish armed steamship. pr time in ordering her to Havana. By after that the Department heard noth- the group. That was this time matters became serious for ing further about the uprising in Mon-substance of the matter

He had begome almost ashamed to He Becomes Rear-Admiral. show himself on deck. He had a repu-tation as an efficient officer to uphold. on May 4, 1910, and was assigned to His officers and men had been accuss command the second division of the tomed to seeing him attired in spot- Pacific fleet. He hoisted his flag on jcke for a naval officer to keep spot- but on March 6 of this year he sucstout, and, as it happened, all of the ferred his flag to the California at were no shirts aboard which he could that he was dispatched upon the much use, He grew desperate. This could discussed errand to Palmyra Island, go on no longer, he telt. To cap the about which a great deal of needless climax, word came that the Dixie had mystery has been made. Palmyra isibeen ordered from Havana to Cien- and is one of a group of about fifty-

there until relieved. Capt. Southerland's state of mind can be better imagined than described He is however, a man of initiative, and he lost no time in seizing the bull by the horns, as it were. He started the "clean-shirt revolution," as it had come to be known in the navy. For weeks the Navy Department had supposed Santo Domingo wrapped in somnolent peace, but suddenly the cables began to click with warning messages. Monte Cristi was rising, Washington heard. Serious trouble was impending

the quarrel. In this action the Galicia without bothereing to remove any of that he had been longing for these gency, he managed to communicate to i It is not the custom of the Navy De- ice, steps were taken to restore Capt.

less uniforms and linen, and it is no the West Virginia in February, 1911. less in the tropics, where white is the ceeded Rear-Admiral Chauncey Thomcostume re reguer. Southerland is as in supreme command, and trans-Scorpion's officers were thin. There Honolulu. It was shortly after this plantations from rebels, and to remain | holds that it has title. Although proclaimed a part of Hawaii in 1882, it was annexed by Great Britain in 1889, when this intelligence reached him and because of information of this, which did not reach the Navy Department until late last year, Southerland was instructed to examine the island

> and search for tangible proof of Great Britain's right to claim possession. It was feared that Britain intended to make use of it as a coaling station



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